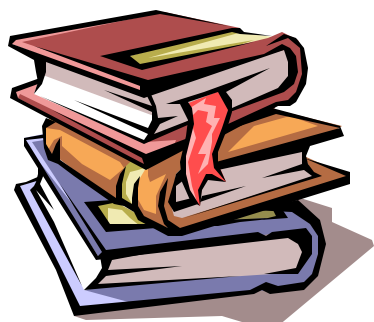


Local Government Grant Update

Office of Community Development



The Laura Bush Foundation Gives Libraries a Boost



"In the two years of the Foundation's existence, a total of 268 schools have received \$1,300,000 to help school libraries create and expand their book collections." - Laura Bush

School budgets across the state are tight, and The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is helping to

keep books on the shelves in school libraries. The First Lady tells us how successful the Foundation has been in its current newsletter, "In the two years of the Foundation's existence, a total of 268 schools have received \$1,300,000 to help school libraries create and expand their book collections." Mrs. Bush's passion for reading and education is evident, as she has earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Texas at Austin and has served as both a teacher and a librarian. In September of 2001, Mrs. Bush teamed up with the Library of Congress to launch the first National Book Festival, featuring award-winning authors from

around the nation. Grants from the Laura Bush Foundation will be made to school libraries nationwide to purchase books. **The current deadline is December 1, 2004**, and applicants must apply through the website.

For information on the foundation and its grants:

Website: www.laurabushfoundation.org

E-mail: laurabushfoundation@cfncr.org

Or call Alicia Reid at (202) 263-4774.

November 2004 Issue

November 8, 2004

Things to remember:

- You can always use OCD's online Grants Database, the **Louisiana Assistance Resource Center** to help find resource opportunities on your own at: www.larconline.com
- Call Paul Catrou at OCD for extra assistance or with any questions at (225)342-7412
- Use the contact information included with each opportunity to learn more detailed information.

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National School and Business Partnerships Award



The Council for Corporate and School Partnerships, founded in 2001 by the Coca-Cola Company, will award 6 exemplary partnerships between schools and business per year throughout the country. Applications will be

available for the 2004-2005 award program on November 9, 2004. Those selected receive national recognition and the school/school districts will be awarded \$10,000 to support partnership efforts.

Contact Info:

www.corpschoolpartners.org

Jay Engeln
Tel: (703)860-7364
engelnj@principals.org

General Motors Foundation, Inc.



The GM Foundation, Inc. supports areas where they have major operations.

The General Motors Foundation, Inc. supports a variety of charitable activities in areas where they have major plants. In Louisiana, this means in and around the Shreveport area, where GM assembles various trucks including the new Hummer H3. Education, health and human services, civic and community relations, public policy, arts and culture, and environment and energy

are all listed by GM as targeted focus areas.

Eligible applicants for a GM Foundation grant are organizations with verifiable IRS 501(c)(3) tax status. Proposals that exhibit a clear purpose and a defined need in one of GM's focus areas will be given top priority. Organizations must also be able to demonstrate their efficiency, their ability to administer the grant, and their ability to recognize innovative approaches that address the defined need. Be sure to include how the proposal benefits GM and the community. Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, age, gender, veteran status, physical challenge

or national origin will not be considered.

The application process for the GM Foundation is now entirely online. Paper requests are no longer considered. You can access more information about the foundation and about the application process on the web at:

www.gm.com/company/gmability/community/guidelines/index.html

Build Capacity with the Rural Community Development Initiative

Qualified private, nonprofit, or public (including tribal) organizations that provide financial and technical assistance to multiple recipients are eligible for assistance under this USDA Rural Development program. The goal of the program is to develop the recipients' capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. The applicant organization must match the RCDI grant dollar-for-dollar and provide a program of technical assistance to multiple recipients that operate in rural areas.

multiple recipients that operate in rural areas.

The application deadline is January 25, 2005.

There is more information available on the USDA website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm

Contact William Kenney if you have questions: Tel: (202) 720- 1506, Fax: (202) 690-0471, E-mail: william.kenney@usda.gov

Did you know?

The Office of Community Development has been awarded two RCDI grants and is applying for a third to help build the capacity of Louisiana's local governments. If your community is interested, call Traci Watts at (225)342-7412.

Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant Program to Aid Farmers

The United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office is funding the Farm Labor Housing Loan and Grant Program. This program provides capital financing for the development of housing for domestic farm laborers. Individual farmers, associations of farmers, family farm corporations, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and associations of farmworkers are eligible to



USDA helps out our farmers.

receive loan funding through this program. Loan applicants usually are unable to receive financing elsewhere, but occasionally those who are able to get credit may obtain loans at a rate of interest based on the cost

of federal borrowing. Grants are made to farmworker associations, nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes, and public agencies.

The deadline for applications is December 27, 2004.

For more information, visit the website:

www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/mfh/brief_mfh_flh.htm

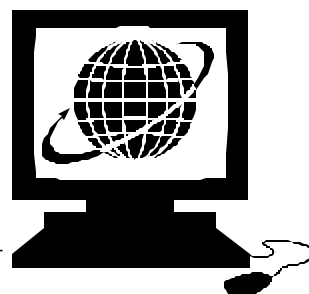
Or call the USDA Rural Development State Office in Alexandria, Louisiana:

Tel: (318)473-7921

U.S. Department of Justice Sets Up AMBER Alert Website

In 1996, Dallas-Ft. Worth broadcasters teamed up with local police to create an early warning system to help locate abducted children. AMBER is an acronym meaning America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response. It was named in honor of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was abducted while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, then brutally murdered. Soon after the system was implemented in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, other states and communities across the nation began to set up their own plans, and the AMBER Alert system has since been adopted nationwide.

The AMBER Alert system has been very successful. In the September 2004 Progress Report on the National AMBER Alert Strategy, National AMBER Alert Coordinator Deborah Daniels noted, "To date, the successful recoveries of 121 children, or four-fifths of the total number of all successful recoveries, have occurred since October of 2002, when the AMBER



New AMBER Alert website created: www.amberalert.gov.

program became a coordinated national effort.

The new website houses useful information on how to administer the AMBER program, as well as national guidelines and information on conferences and training opportunities. You can visit the website at:

www.amberalert.gov

Youth Service America Encourages Kids to Get Involved

Youth Service America, founded in 1986, is dedicated to strengthen the effectiveness, sustainability, and scale of the youth service and service-learning fields. YSA partners with organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for Americans, ages 5-25. To this end, Youth Service America has two currently open grant opportunities aimed directly at America's youth. The DisneyHand Minnie Grants program awards up to \$500 to kids between the ages of 5 and 14 to plan and carry out service projects for National and Global Youth Service Day 2005. YSA has teamed up with Disney to offer this program to encourage youth

to work with adults in their community on a project that addresses a community need. Youth between the ages of 5 and 14 and any teacher or organization that works with them is eligible. **The deadline for applications is December 20, 2004.** Youth Venture is another program funded by YSA. 10 projects will receive \$1,000 each in start-up funds for youth-led (ages 12-20) civic-minded organizations. Youth Venture's mission is to encourage America's youth to become involved by giving them the opportunity to help make a difference. **Applications are due on November 22, 2004.**

"YSA partners with organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for Americans, ages 5-25."

Contact Info:

Websites: ysa.org and www.youthventure.org

Tel: (202)296-2992

Fax: (202)296-4030

Local Event Planner

2005 Rural Economic Development Conference

The Governor's Office of Rural Development is holding this conference from **February 1, 2005 - February 3, 2005** at Southeastern University in



Check out our Local Event Planner for upcoming events of interest.

Hammond, Louisiana. Keep an eye out for the registration information in the mail! For more information call the Governor's Office at (225)342-1618.

Governor's First Annual 'Solutions to Poverty Summit'

The Summit is open to the public and will focus on engaging citizens to participate in a solution-oriented discussion about how to break the cycle of poverty. Guest speakers and panelists with local, state, and national expertise will be present. The Summit will take place on **December 6th and 7th, 2004** at the Monroe Civic Center in Monroe, LA.

Office of Community Development

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The Office of Community Development, as part of the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, administers the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. The LCDBG Program provides pass-through Federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Small Cities Program. OCD provides grants to local governments for public infrastructure, economic development, demonstrated needs, housing, and self-help projects. In addition to the LCDBG Program, OCD offers technical assistance to Louisiana's rural communities. This assistance ranges from grant research requests to this newsletter.

We're on the web!
www.doa.state.la.us/cdbg/cdbg.htm



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